

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A carrier for a developer for developing an electrostatic image, comprising core particles having a weight average particle diameter of 48 to 50 μm , and a resin layer comprising a crosslinked silicone resin;

wherein said resin layer covering covers each of said core particles and comprising comprises carbon particles having a number average particle diameter of 0.01-0.1 μm .

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carrier has a weight average particle diameter of 25-65 μm and such a particle diameter distribution that that portion of said carrier having a particle diameter of less than 37 μm but no less than 26 μm accounts for 1-60 % of a total weight of said carrier.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carrier has a weight average particle diameter of 35-60 μm and such a particle diameter distribution that that portion of said carrier having a particle diameter of less than 37 μm but no less than 26 μm accounts for 10-50 % of a total weight of said carrier.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carrier has a specific resistance of 10^9 - 10^{15} $\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carrier has an induced magnetic moment of 40-85 emu/g in an applied magnetic field of 1 KOe.

Claim 6 (Original): A developer for developing an electrostatic image, comprising a dry toner, and a carrier according to claim 1.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): An image forming method comprising the steps of:
contacting an image forming member bearing an electrostatic latent image thereon with a developer according to claim 6 to develop the latent image with the developer to form a toner image on said image forming member;
transferring said toner image to a transfer member;
collecting the toner and the carrier remaining on said image forming member after the transferring step; and
recycling the collected toner and the carrier for use in the contacting step.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image forming member adapted to bear an electrostatic latent image thereon;
means disposed adjacent to said image forming member for forming an electrostatic latent image on said image forming member;
a developing mechanism having a vessel containing a developer according to claim 6 for developing the latent image with the developer to form a toner image on said image forming member;
a transferring mechanism for transferring said toner image from said image forming member to a transfer member;
a collecting mechanism located downstream of said transferring mechanism for recovering the toner and the carrier remaining on said image forming member; and
a recycling mechanism for returning the collected toner and the carrier to said vessel.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of the coating layer is about 0.1 – 1.5 μm .

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of the coating layer is about 0.2 – 1.0 μm .

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein said carrier has a weight average particle diameter of 35-60 μm and such a particle diameter distribution that that portion of said carrier having a particle diameter of less than 37 μm but no less than 26 μm accounts for 10-50 % of a total weight of said carrier.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein said toner comprises a binder resin and a coloring agent.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 13, wherein the binder resin comprises a thermoplastic resin.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 13, wherein the binder resin comprises a polymer which comprises a monomer which is selected from the group consisting of a styrene, a vinyl ester, an α -methylene aliphatic monocarboxylic acid ester, an acrylonitrile, a methacrylonitrile, an acrylamide, a vinyl ether, a vinyl ketone, a N-vinyl compound, and combinations thereof.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein the toner is magnetic.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein the toner is non-magnetic.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 13, wherein said toner further comprises a charge controlling agent and a releasing agent.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein the toner has a weight average particle diameter that ranges from 4.0 - 7.5 μm .

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein the toner is present in an amount of 0.5 to 15% by weight based on a total weight of the toner and the carrier.